



July 8, 2014

Hon. Jon Tester
U.S. Senate Committee on Indian Affairs
Chairman
706 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Hon. John Barrasso
U.S. Senate Committee on Indian Affairs
Vice Chairman
307 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Tester and Vice Chairman Barrasso:

The Arizona Chamber of Commerce and Industry urges your support of S. 2503, The Bill Williams River Water Rights Settlement Act of 2014. The Act will provide long-term certainty to both tribal and other water users in northwest Arizona.

S.2503 is the result of an agreement between the Hualapai Tribe, the U.S. Department of the Interior, the Arizona Game and Fish Commission and Freeport Minerals Corporation. In addition to the support of each of the stakeholders, the Act also has the support of the entire Arizona congressional delegation.

The Act would ratify the Big Sandy River-Planet Ranch Water Rights Settlement Agreement and the Hualapai Bill Williams River Water Rights Settlement Agreement, and would facilitate a fair and equitable settlement of claims to water rights along the Bill Williams watershed in Arizona. In the agreement, Freeport Minerals Corporation will provide a tribal water supply study necessary to the Hualapai Tribe's claims for Colorado River water and will enable the Tribe to purchase Colorado River water rights to help facilitate a future comprehensive settlement. In exchange, Freeport will secure water rights for its continued operations in northwestern Arizona.

Water is a critical component to the economic vitality of the state of Arizona. The settlement of water rights claims is a priority in our state in order to provide clarity and long-term certainty to all water users across Arizona.

We hope that this legislation can be swiftly approved by the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs. Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can provide any insight into this important issue.

Sincerely,

Glenn Hamer
President and CEO



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